

Security clearance

12/5/77

Mr. Les Whitten
1401 16 At., NW
Wash, D.C. 20037

Dear Les,

Here is a bit more on Oswald and suppressed records and the kind of "investigation" there has been. Please return after you are finished.

The Commission wanted an investigation of any Oswald connection with the death of UDMC Pvt. Martin Schrand. All the available records on that death are enclosed.

Oswald worked in the "crypto" van at Cam Bay or whatever it is called. He also did elsewhere, as I learned from a former Marine mate who wants anonymity. This mate told me that Oswald had both TOP SECRET and CRYPTO clearances. The extant official records, or those provided to the Commission, show only Confidential clearance.

The enclosed records, which reflect that the van was the "crypto van," is the first official confirmation of the extraordinarily high security clearance of this alleged "Red" Oswald. Oswald's commissioned officer superior, a then Lieutenant Donovan, is the source for the fact that to do the work he did Oswald required at least SECRET clearance. Minimum also for crypto clearance, if I recall correctly after all these years.

Now, there is also enclosed a copy of Oswald's Form 20 covering his advanced radar and related training. While you may find other interests, I have marked what strikes me of exceptional importance. When Oswald left there he was assigned to "HQ. Battalion, HQ. U. S. Marine Corps, Washington 25, D.C." Perhaps this is an innocent bureaucratic designation but I would not assume it for one who thereupon was dispatched to the ^{tender} ~~entire~~ areas of the orient, from Java to a U-2 base in Japan.

If you like and would rather sell a story than use as a column item, okay and I have more. If you'd rather give to Jack for his TV, I don't care. I want to force more of the still suppressed records out.

I've been typing this while waiting for the doctor's nurse to come to the phone to give me any instructions following the weekly blood-testing. Not easy with the normal phone. If you have any connections through which you can get me a plug-in phone with the head harness so my hands are free I'll be glad to pay for it. I can also attach the plug if you can get one without the plug. Some of my calls are pretty long and the circulatory problems extend to the arteries and the arms, so holding the phone sometimes is not comfortable.

If you don't go for this story please let me know.

Best,

Handwritten signature

PM to Les:

12/5/77

I'm glad and sorry that you are taking a year off to write some books.

Glad for you because you want to do this and because without doubt you have something that should be said and want to say it your way.

Sorry because I've had nothing to do with any other of your people and now am not in a position to get there and make acquaintances, build up feelings of mutual trust, etc. Sorry in particular because the time has come when I can give away some of the records I've had to hold back not to entice the destruction of still missing records.

Pick one out and tell him I really do have only one head, will you?

By the way, if you are fed any of the new records the FBI is going to release, have your people check with me to assure you (column) are not used (misused). If I can't be certain I can refer to those who may be and whose word can be taken. ~~How~~ Not many, tho. Few responsible people in this field.

One of the things to guard against is the FBI's pointing the finger at the CIA and the CIA trying to stick it in the FBI.

Hope it works out the way you want it to.

Best,